

# ENGINEERING HERITAGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

## Proposal to nominate The Harricks Auditorium as an Item of Engineering Heritage Interest

<b>Item Name:</b>	<b>Harricks Auditorium</b>		
<b>Other/Former Names:</b>	Auditorium		
<b>Locality:</b>	Sydney city		
<b>Address:</b>	44 Market Street Sydney		
<b>Co-ordinates</b>	44 Market St, Sydney: Lat: -33.87049374089109, Lon: 151.2059963418896 8 Thomas St, Chatswood: Lat: -33.79820420451432 Lon: 151.18035966471558 118 Alfred Street, Milsons Point: Lat -33.84380533110487 Lon: 151.21034861060943		
<b>Current Owner:</b>	Leased office space – owner unknown.		
<b>Original Owner:</b>	The Institution of Engineers, Australia		
<b>Current use:</b>	Auditorium, Engineers Australia, Sydney Division		
<b>Former use:</b>	Auditorium		
<b>Proposed use:</b>	Auditorium, Engineers Australia, Sydney Division		
<b>Item Condition:</b>	Good		
<b>Designer:</b>	NA		
<b>Builder:</b>	NA		
<b>Started:</b>	NA	<b>Completed:</b>	1994
<b>History:</b>	<p>To pursue the objective of a national professional body to represent engineers and the profession in Australia, an interstate conference was held in Melbourne in February 1918; it was convened by Dudley Harricks, chief engineer of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company and president of the Engineering Association of New South Wales. Of the fifteen societies involved, twelve accepted, and the first council meeting was held in October 1919; on the motion of Harricks who chaired the meeting, Professor William Henry Warren, Challis Professor of Engineering in the University of Sydney, was elected first president of the Institution, for the year 1920,</p> <p>In their early years the Institution's combined headquarters and New South Wales office was in the old Royal Society building at 5 Elizabeth Street, Sydney.</p> <p>Following an approach to the New South Wales Government from the Institution along with the Royal Society of New South Wales and the Linnean Society, for a gift of land for a professional societies' house, Science House was erected on the corner of Gloucester and Essex Streets, and was first occupied in January 1931. It continued as the Institution's headquarters and the New South Wales Division until the late 1960s.</p>		

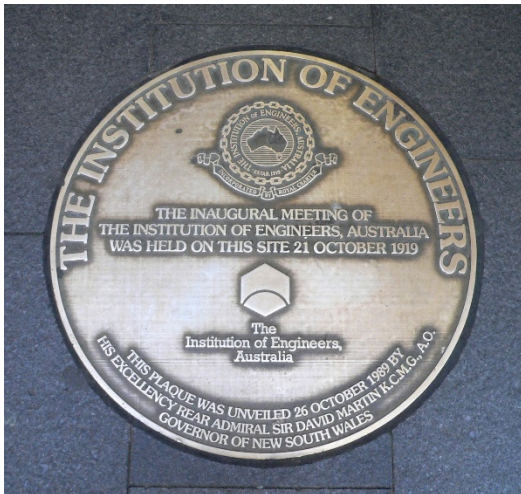
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	<p>In 1965 it became apparent to the Sydney Division that accommodation in Science House was inadequate, and the Institution purchased a building at 118 Alfred Street, Milson's Point, which the Division occupied in 1967.</p> <p>Then in 1968, The Institution accepted an offer to buy the premises, in exchange for an extended leasehold of equivalent area in the new development, in which there was provision for a lecture theatre, supper-rooms and office accommodation. The lecture theatre (auditorium) was opened on 24th May, 1972 by The Hon. J. (Jack) G. Beale, M.E, FIEAust, MLA, Minister for Environment Control; a plaque was unveiled and was placed on the front of the balcony/gallery of the auditorium.</p> <p>In 1994 on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Institution of Engineers, Australia, the auditorium was named the Harricks Auditorium, and a plaque mounted on the wall in memory of D F J Harricks.</p> <p>With the lease at Milsons Point expiring, Sydney Division leased premises at 8 Thomas Street Chatswood where the Harricks plaque was mounted in the new auditorium.</p> <p>Then in early 2020, Sydney Division moved again to leased premises at 44 Market Street, Sydney, where the Harricks plaque was mounted in the new auditorium.</p>
<p><b>Engineer:</b></p>	<p>'Dudley Francis John Harricks (1880-1960), engineer, was born on 6 February 1880 at Maryborough, Queensland.</p> <p>Educated at Maryborough Grammar School, Dudley was apprenticed to Walkers Ltd, engineers in 1896. On completing his articles, he joined the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. in Sydney.</p> <p>In 1905 Harricks was given charge of the drawing office and in 1918 became Engineer-in-Chief (until he retired in 1939), with responsibility for the wide range of mechanical, electrical and marine engineering in the company's mills in New South Wales, Queensland and Fiji, large workshops at Pyrmont, Sydney, and a fleet of ships.</p> <p>A member of the Engineering Association of New South Wales from 1906, Harricks contributed papers to its meetings and acted as honorary secretary and editor of its <i>Minutes and Proceedings</i>. During World War I he and the association gave a lead to local manufacture of munitions by publishing information collected world-wide.</p> <p>He also stressed the responsibility of engineers for the aesthetic qualities of their designs and for minimizing pollution.</p> <p>As president of the Engineering Association from 1916, Harricks was the driving force behind the amalgamation of the foundation societies to form the Institution of Engineers, Australia in 1919. He could have been first president of the new body, but instead supported Professor W. H. Warren. He was a foundation council-member until 1938, President in 1929 and was awarded its (Sir) Peter Nicol Russell memorial medal in 1939.</p> <p>In 1917 Harricks had advocated a 'Science House' to bring together Sydney's learned societies: when the government granted land he organized finance for the building, which was opened in 1931. He was a council-member of the Standards Association of Australia, a member of the government's Housing Improvement Advisory Committee and of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, London.</p> <p>Harricks died in hospital at Kirribilli on 8 March 1960.</p>

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	The Sydney Division of the Institution of Engineers has honoured him with the annual Harricks Address, and in 1961 C.S.R. established the Harricks Memorial Medallion'. (ADB).		
<b>Description:</b>	The Harricks Auditorium is a place where lectures, symposia and other learned events take place.		
<b>Engineering Significance:</b>	The naming of Engineers Australia's Sydney Division's auditorium as 'The Harricks Auditorium' is a memorial to Dudley Francis John Harricks, a distinguished engineer of the first half of the 20th century, and a driving force in the formation and vision of the Institution of Engineers, Australia. It is also a research reference to the origin and history of The Institution.		
<b>Webpage Summary:</b>	<p>Dudley Francis John Harricks was a distinguished engineer who was Engineer-in-Chief of C.S.R. from 1918 until he retired in 1939. As president of the Engineering Association of NSW he was the driving force in the formation and vision of the Institution of Engineers, Australia, in 1919. Harricks was its first secretary in 1920, President in 1929 and was awarded the Peter Nicol Russell Memorial Medal in 1939.</p> <p>Sydney Division of the Institution of Engineers has honoured him with the annual Harricks Address, and in 1961 C.S.R. established the Harricks Memorial Medallion.</p> <p>In 1994 on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Institution of Engineers, Australia, the Sydney Division's auditorium was named the Harricks Auditorium, and a plaque mounted on the wall in Harricks' memory.</p>		
<b>Engineering Theme:</b>	Engineering and Technology: Leadership and Management Boards, Governance, Environmental Management, Institutions		
<b>Heritage Listing:</b>	Nil		
<b>References/Sources:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fraser, Don (Ed). <i>Sydney from settlement to city</i>. 1989. Engineers Australia Pty Ltd. ISBN 0 85825 489 1</li> <li>• Beale, J G. <i>Address at the official opening of the Auditorium of the Sydney Division of the Institution of Engineers, Australia, on 24th May, 1972</i>.</li> <li>• Corbett, Arthur. <i>Dudley Francis Harricks (1880–1960)</i>. 1983. Australian Dictionary of Biography.</li> <li>• Bowie, Ian. Personal communication. November 2023.</li> </ul>		
<b>Nominated by:</b>	Michael Clarke		
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<b>EHA Branch:</b>	Sydney	<b>Nomination Date:</b>	25 November 2023

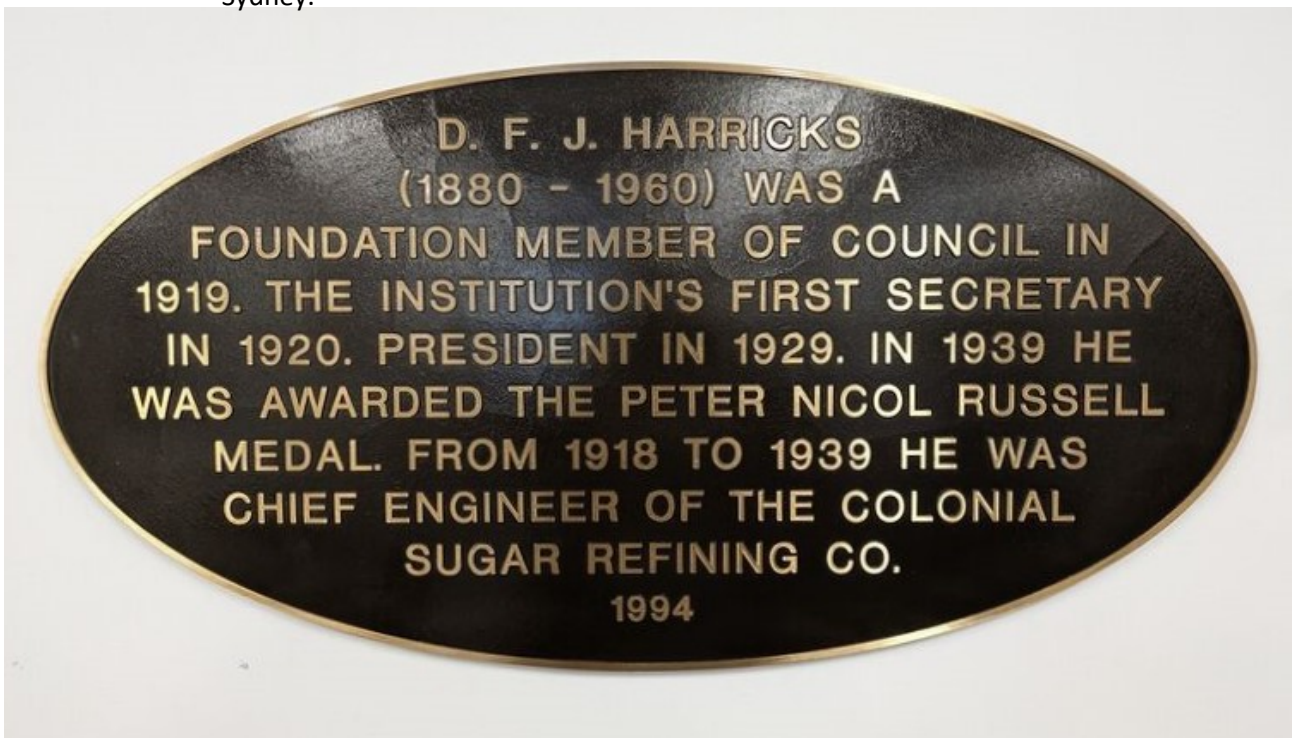
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Inaugural meeting place of The Institution of Engineers, Australia. Footpath plaque 5 Elizabeth Street, Sydney.



Plaque commemorating opening of the auditorium at 118 Alfred Street, Milsons Point, on 24th May, 1972.



Plaque in memory of D F J Harricks, mounted in the Harricks Auditorium of Sydney Division of Engineers Australia.